

What we claim is:

1. A method for monitoring the cardiovascular condition of a patient while treating sleep disordered breathing comprising the steps of:

5 delivering positive airway pressure at therapeutic levels for treatment of sleep disordered breathing,

detecting and recording events associated with the treatment of the patient's sleep disordered breathing,

10 storing information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient, and relating to each other the stored information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient and the recorded events associated with the treatment of the patient's sleep disordered breathing.

2. A method for monitoring the cardiovascular condition of a patient while treating sleep disordered breathing in accordance with claim 1 wherein said step of detecting and recording events associated with the treatment of the patient's sleep  
15 disordered breathing includes detecting and recording data related to at least one of apneas, hypopneas, partial obstructions, snoring, pressure versus time, flow versus time, and leaks.

3. A method for monitoring the cardiovascular condition of a patient while treating sleep disordered breathing in accordance with claim 2 wherein the information  
20 concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient is stored such that it may be related to recorded sleep disordered breathing events over time.

4. A method for monitoring the cardiovascular condition of a patient while treating sleep disordered breathing in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient is stored such that it may be  
25 related to recorded sleep disordered breathing events over time.

5. A method for treating respiratory disorders and simultaneously monitoring a patient for indications of cardiovascular disease comprising the steps of:

30 delivering positive airway pressure at therapeutic levels for treatment of respiratory disorders,

detecting and recording as a function of time events associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders,

storing as a function of time information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient, and

relating to each other the information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient and the recorded events associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders.

5           6. A method for treating respiratory disorders and simultaneously monitoring a patient for indications of cardiovascular disease in accordance with claim 5 wherein said step of detecting and recording events associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders includes detecting and recording data related to at least one of apneas, hypopneas, partial obstructions, snoring, pressure versus time, flow versus time, and leaks.

10           7. A method for treating respiratory disorders and simultaneously monitoring a patient for indications of cardiovascular disease in accordance with claim 6 wherein the information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient is stored such that it may be related to recorded events associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders over time.

15           8. A method for treating respiratory disorders and simultaneously monitoring a patient for indications of cardiovascular disease in accordance with claim 5 wherein the information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient is stored such that it may be related to recorded events associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders over time.

20           9. A method for relating to each other cardiovascular and sleep disordered breathing conditions of a patient comprising the steps of monitoring and recording heart rate and/or detailed echocardiogram data continuously or periodically together with sleep disordered breathing information on similar time scales, and observing changes in the patient's heart rate associated with changes in sleep disordered breathing to relate to each other the cardiovascular and sleep disordered breathing conditions of the patient.

25           10. A method for relating to each other cardiovascular and sleep disordered breathing conditions of a patient comprising the steps of monitoring and recording heart rate and/or detailed echocardiogram data continuously or periodically together with sleep disordered breathing information on similar time scales, and observing changes in the patient's heart rate associated with changes in sleep disordered breathing.

30           11. A method for relating to each other cardiovascular and sleep disordered breathing conditions of a patient by monitoring and recording heart rate and/or other

cardiovascular data continuously or periodically together with sleep disordered breathing information on similar time scales.

12. A method for providing data collected during long-term treatment of a patient for sleep disordered breathing to a clinician who is treating at least one other  
5 disease that the patient has comprising the steps of:

performing long-term monitoring of the condition of said patient while treating the patient's sleep disordered breathing,

collecting and storing data concerning the condition of the patient that is obtained from said long-term monitoring, and

10 making the stored data available to a clinician who is treating at least one disease of the patient other than sleep disordered breathing.

13. A method for providing data collected during long-term treatment of a patient for sleep disordered breathing to a clinician who is treating at least one other disease that the patient has in accordance with claim 12 wherein said data is collected  
15 and stored while delivering positive airway pressure to said patient at therapeutic levels for treatment of sleep disordered breathing.

14. A method for providing data collected during long-term treatment of a patient for sleep disordered breathing to a clinician who is treating at least one other disease that the patient has in accordance with claim 13 wherein the data that is  
20 stored and made available concerns the cardiovascular condition of the patient and events associated with the treatment of the patient's sleep disordered breathing.

15. A method for providing data collected during long-term treatment of a patient for sleep disordered breathing to a clinician who is treating at least one other disease that the patient has in accordance with claim 13 wherein the data that is  
25 stored and made available concerns the cardiovascular condition of the patient.

16. A method for providing data collected during long-term treatment of a patient for sleep disordered breathing to a clinician who is treating at least one other disease that the patient has in accordance with claim 12 wherein the data that is stored and made available concerns the cardiovascular condition of the patient.

30 17. A method for managing the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient comprising the steps of: (i) evaluating a questionnaire on the sleep history of the patient; (ii) conducting overnight oximetry or sleep scoring of the patient and (iii) conducting a sleep study on the patient.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the questionnaire includes questioning the patient whether they snore.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the sleep study is unattended and includes an Holter monitor.

5           20. A method for managing the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient in accordance with the pathway as shown and illustrated in Fig. 3.

21. A method for managing the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient in accordance with the pathway as shown and illustrated in Fig. 4.

10           22. Computer apparatus for assisting the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient programmed to deliver prompts advising the carer to:

(i) Conduct a questionnaire on the sleep history of the patient;

(ii) Conduct overnight oximetry or sleep scoring of the patient and

(iii) conduct a sleep study on the patient.

15           23. Computer apparatus as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the steps of prompting the carer of the appropriate re-imburement codes.

24. Computer apparatus programmed to assist the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient in accordance with the flowchart shown in Fig. 3.

25. Computer apparatus programmed to assist the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient in accordance with the flowchart shown in Fig. 4.

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